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### CHAPTER ELEVEN

#### EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER 21

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## **Chapter 11. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment for Individuals Under Twenty-one (21)**

Rule No. 560-X-11-.01. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment for Individuals Under Twenty-one (21) - General.

(1) Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) of certain eligible individuals under age twenty-one (21) is a mandatory service of the Medicaid Program intended by Congress to direct attention to the importance of preventive health services and early detection and treatment of disease in children eligible for medical assistance.

(2) The Alabama Medicaid Agency:

(a) Will provide for a combination of written and oral methods designed to effectively inform all EPSDT eligible individuals (or their families) about the EPSDT program. Generally, this information will be provided within 60 days of the individual's initial Medicaid eligibility determination and in the case of families which have not utilized EPSDT services, annually thereafter.

(b) Will using clear and nontechnical language, provide information about the following: the benefits of preventive health care, the services available under the EPSDT program, and how to obtain these services.

(c) Will inform recipients that the services provided under the EPSDT program are without cost to eligible individuals under 21 years of age. Exception: Copayment is required of individuals from eighteen (18) to under twenty-one (21).

(d) Will provide other medically necessary health care, diagnostic, treatment and/or other measures described in section 1905(a) of Title XIX to correct or ameliorate defects, physical and mental illnesses and conditions discovered during a screening.

(e) Will inform individuals that necessary transportation and scheduling assistance are available upon request.

(f) Will provide an extensive outreach program for EPSDT recipients.

(g) In conjunction with the Alabama Department of Human Resources, will jointly develop an agreement covering the responsibilities of the county Departments of Human Resources, county Health Departments and other screening providers for EPSDT.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.56; OBRA '89-Section 6403. Rule effective October 1, 1982. Rule amended June 8, 1985. ER effective December 1, 1986. Effective date of this amendment March 12, 1987. ER effective October 1, 1990. Amended February 13, 1991. ER effective December 1, 1992. Effective date of this amendment January 13, 1993.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.02. Major Components of EPSDT.

- (1) Early  
As early as possible in the life of a child already Medicaid eligible or as soon as possible after a person's eligibility is established, if he or she is under twenty-one (21) years of age;
- (2) Periodic  
At intervals established by Medicaid to assure that disease or disability is not incipient or present in persons eligible for the EPSDT services;
- (3) Screening  
Assessment of the physical and mental health of all persons under twenty-one (21) years of age who are Medicaid eligible.
- (4) Diagnosis  
Further study of persons to determine the nature or cause of disease or abnormality to provide a frame of reference for treatment;
- (5) Treatment  
Any Treatment available under the Alabama Medicaid Program including eyeglasses, hearing aids and other necessary health care, diagnostic services to correct or ameliorate defects, physical and mental illnesses and conditions discovered during a screening.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.50; OBRA '89-Section 6403. Rule effective October 1, 1982. Rule amended June 8, 1985. ER effective December 1, 1986. Effective date of this amendment March 12, 1987. ER effective October 1, 1990. Effective date of this amendment February 13, 1991.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.03. Eligibility.

- (1) All persons under twenty-one (21) years of age except SOBRA adult eligibles who have been certified as being eligible for Medicaid are eligible for the EPSDT program.
- (2) Alabama Medicaid Agency assigns Medicaid identification numbers and issues plastic Medicaid eligibility cards to persons eligible for benefits.
- (3) In providing services and filing a claim for medical payment, it is required that a person be eligible in the month in which the service is rendered.
- (4) Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code, Chapter One, General, contains information about the identification of Medicaid recipients.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.50; OBRA '89-Section 6403. Rule effective October 1, 1982. Rule amended June 8, 1985. ER effective December 1, 1986. Effective date of this amendment March 12, 1987. ER

effective October 1, 1990. Amended February 13, 1991. ER effective December 1, 1992. Effective date of this amendment January 13, 1993.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.04. EPSDT Manual.

(1) A manual on the EPSDT Program setting forth in detail the elements of the physical examination, instructions for completion of forms, processes and procedures to follow in administration of local programs and billing instructions will be provided to each EPSDT provider. Failure to follow the procedures and requirements as outlined in the manual may result in recoupment of the funds paid to the provider.

(2) EPSDT School-Based screening providers must follow the Protocols and Procedures for EPSDT School-Based services in addition to the EPSDT Manual. Failure to comply may result in recoupment of the funds paid to the provider.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.56(d). Rule effective October 1, 1982. ER effective December 1, 1986. Amended March 12, 1987. ER effective October 1, 1990. Amended February 13, 1991. Effective date of this amendment May 11, 1995.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.05. Providers of Screening Services.

(1) In-state and borderline out-of-state (within 30-mile radius of state line) health care agencies and physicians wishing to participate in the EPSDT Program may request enrollment information from the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Exception: The Fiscal Agent will be responsible for enrolling any Title XVIII (Medicare) providers that wish to enroll as a QMB-only provider.

(2) All providers of screening services must enter into an agreement with Alabama Medicaid Agency to participate in the EPSDT Program as a screening provider. Exception: QMB-only providers. Each off-site location will require a separate application, a separate contract, and will be assigned a provider number distinct from any other the provider may have with Medicaid.

(3) All health care agencies enrolled shall be under the direction of a duly-licensed physician, a currently licensed registered nurse, or a certified nurse practitioner who shall be responsible for assuring that requirements of participation are met and that the procedures established by the Medicaid program are carried out.

(4) Screening programs conducted under the direction of a registered nurse or certified nurse practitioner must have a licensed physician acting as medical consultant.

(5) EPSDT services may be offered by School-Based screening providers.

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**Statutory Authority:** Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 400.203, Section 441.56. Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-360). OBRA '89-Section 6403.

**History:** Rule effective October 1, 1982, May 9, 1984, July 9, 1984, December 1, 1986, March 12, 1987, July 13, 1989, October 1, 1990, February 13, 1991, May 11, 1995. Amended: Filed February 19, 1999; effective May 10, 1999.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.06. Procedures and Tests in the Screening Examination.

(1) The Agency will establish specific health evaluation procedures to be used by screening providers. These procedures and tests will be fully described in the Screening Provider Manual.

(2) All procedures and tests included in the Screening Provider Manual must be carried out on each person screened and must be recorded in the case history of the individual.

(3) Where it is not possible to carry out all procedures and tests, this fact must be recorded in the case history of the individual, including the reason such procedure or test was not carried out.

(4) Requirements in this paragraph are subject to federal and state audits and documentation in the records will be examined in on-site visits from time to time. Failure to meet these requirements may result in recoupment of the funds paid to the provider.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.56(d); OBRA '89-Section 6403. Rule effective October 1, 1982. ER effective December 1, 1986. Effective date of this amendment March 12, 1987. ER effective October 1, 1990. Effective date of this amendment February 13, 1991.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.07. Screening Schedule.

(1) The Agency will establish a distinct periodicity schedule for screening services, after consultation with recognized medical organizations involved in child health care. This schedule will be published in the Screening Provider Manual.

(2) Periodic screening services will be provided at intervals that meet reasonable standards of medical practice in accordance with those described for well-child care in the Guidelines for Health Supervision of American Academy of Pediatrics.

(3) Interperiodic screenings are covered when medically necessary to determine the existence of suspected physical or mental illnesses or conditions.

(4) An EPSDT Intensive Developmental Diagnostic Assessment is a multidisciplinary comprehensive screening limited to infants 0 to under two years of age, and is also limited to two per recipient per lifetime. These screenings are in addition to the routine periodic screenings and must be performed by a qualified EPSDT Intensive Developmental Diagnostic Assessment Screening provider, as approved and enrolled by Medicaid.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.50; OBRA '89-Section 6403. Rule effective October 1, 1982. Amended July 9, 1984, June 8, 1985. ER effective October 1, 1986. Amended October 11, 1986. ER effective December 1, 1986. Amended March 12, 1987. ER effective November 7, 1988. Emergency Rule effective October 1, 1989. ER effective October 1, 1990. Amended February 13, 1991. Effective date of this amendment January 13, 1993.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.08. Consultation Services to Screening Providers.

(1) Professional nursing staff of the Alabama Medicaid Agency will provide assistance to any screening provider who requests it.

(2) The Medicaid staff will assist providers and County Departments of Human Resources with problems in local administration of the EPSDT Program upon request, or as need is identified in on-site visits to screening providers.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.61. Rule effective October 1, 1982. ER effective December 1, 1986. Effective date of this amendment March 12, 1987. ER effective October 1, 1990. Effective date of this amendment February 13, 1991.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.09. EPSDT Referral for Services.

(1) All participating EPSDT providers will complete the EPSDT Referral for Services form for each individual provider to whom a person is being referred to for further diagnosis and/or treatment.

(2) When a screening provider refers a person to a Medicaid participating provider for diagnosis and/or treatment, all treatment services will be considered for reimbursement, above current limitations. However, the services rendered must be medically necessary to treat or ameliorate a condition or diagnosis identified in a screen.

(3) The referring provider must document within the patient's medical history or physical examination portion of the medical record the condition(s) identified during an EPSDT Screening examination which requires a referral. Notation of the condition on the EPSDT referral form alone will not be considered sufficient documentation. Medicaid has the right to recoup payment for the screening service from the referring provider, when a referral is made for a condition not documented in the medical history or physical examination portion of the medical record.

(4) Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code, Chapter One, General, contains information about extended benefits as a result of an EPSDT screening and referral.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.61; OBRA '89-Section 6403. Rule effective October 1, 1982. Emergency Rule effective December 1, 1986. Amended March 12, 1987. Emergency Rule effective October 1, 1990. Amended February 13, 1991. Effective date of this amendment July 11, 1995.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.10. Reimbursement.

(1) Governmental screening providers (including physicians) will be paid on a negotiated rate basis which will not exceed their actual costs. Non-governmental screening providers will be paid their usual and customary charge which is not to exceed the maximum allowable rate established by Medicaid.

(2) In screening a recipient, the provider's contract screening cost will cover the following services: unclothed physical examination; vital signs; heights and weights; family, medical, mental health and immunization histories, vision and hearing testing; developmental assessment including anticipatory guidance and nutritional assessment; hematocrits or hemoglobins; urine testing for protein and glucose; and follow-up of all referred conditions to insure whether or not treatment has been initiated.

(3) Providers may submit claims for immunization, TB skin test and treatment on the day of screening. These charges submitted on the HCFA-1500 form are in addition to the screening charge, but no office visit should be charged at that time.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.50; OBRA '89-Section 6403. Rule effective October 1, 1982. Rule amended July 9, 1984. ER effective December 1, 1986. Effective date of this amendment March 12, 1987. ER effective October 1, 1990. Effective date of this amendment February 13, 1991.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.11. Consent for Health Services for Certain Minors and Others.

(1) Consent for health services for certain minors, and others will be governed by Code of Alabama, 1975, Title 22, Chapter 8.

(2) All consent forms must be signed by the parent or legal guardian except for clients fourteen (14) years and older who may sign for themselves.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.56. Code of Alabama, 1975. Rule effective October 1, 1982. ER effective December 1, 1986. Effective date of this amendment March 12, 1987. ER effective October 1, 1990. Effective date of this amendment February 13, 1991.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.12. Notification Procedures for Handicapped Individuals Eligible for EPSDT.

(1) Hearing Impaired:

(a) Each recipient will be notified of services during a face-to-face verbal interview at which time an individual who communicates via sign language or other methods will be present if needed to pass information to the recipient.

(b) Written information will be given to both the recipient and the individual who communicates with him.

(2) Visually Impaired:

(a) Each recipient will be notified of services during a face-to-face interview, during which time an individual who can communicate with the recipient will be present, if needed, to pass information to him.

(b) The recipient will be given information in Braille. Written information will be given to the individual who communicates with the recipient as well.

(3) Those Who Do Not Speak English:

(a) Each recipient will be notified of services during a face-to-face interview at which time an individual who communicates in the recipient's language will be present for interpretation.

(b) Written materials in Thai, Laotian, Cambodian, and Vietnamese languages are available and will be given to recipients who speak these languages and may also be given to the interpreter for those who are illiterate.

Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.56. Rule effective October 1, 1982. ER effective December 1, 1986. Effective date of this amendment March 12, 1987. ER effective October 1, 1990. Effective date of this amendment February 13, 1991.

Rule No. 560-X-11-.13. State Laboratory Services.

(1) Arrangements have been made with the Clinical Laboratory Administration to have the State Laboratory examine blood specimens for sickle cell anemia and other abnormal hemoglobins, stool specimens for ova and parasites, and scotch tape preparations for pinworms. VDRL, G.C. cultures, throat culture and blood lead level may also be done at no cost to the provider.

(2) Payment is made by Medicaid to the laboratories who have been enrolled as Medicaid providers for examination of specimens submitted by screening agencies and physicians.

(3) Care should be taken to see that the correct Medicaid number is entered on the label or form accompanying such specimens.



Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Section 441.61; OBRA '89-Section 6403. Rule effective October 1, 1982. ER effective December 1, 1986. Effective date of this amendment March 12, 1987. ER effective October 1, 1990. Effective date of this amendment February 13, 1991.

**Rule No. 560-X-11-.14 EPSDT Referred Service Providers**

(1) OBRA '89 requires that medically necessary health care, diagnosis, treatment and/or other measures described in Section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act be covered under Medicaid if identified in an EPSDT screening whether or not such services are covered in the State Plan. If services are not ordinarily provided as a Medicaid benefit for children under age 21, the providers of the service will be enrolled to provide "EPSDT only" referred care. An EPSDT referral form must be maintained by the provider for services provided as a result of a screening.

(a) EPSDT-only providers include: physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, chiropractors, podiatrists, psychologists, private duty nurses, air transportation, and environmental lead investigators.

(b) Enrollment: Instate and borderline out-of-state (within 30 mile radius of the Alabama state line) are eligible to enroll as EPSDT-only providers.

(c) Documentation: EPSDT-only services are covered by Alabama Medicaid when medically necessary and when done to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness or other conditions identified during an EPSDT Screening Exam. EPSDT-only providers must develop a plan of treatment and have it readily available at all times for review in the recipient's medical record. The plan of treatment should contain but is not limited to the following information:

1. Recipient's name,
2. Recipient's current Medicaid number,
3. Date of EPSDT Screening,
4. Referring physician's name,
5. Diagnosis(es),
6. Date of onset or acute exacerbation, if applicable,
7. Type of surgery performed, if applicable,
8. Date of surgery, if applicable,
9. Functional status prior to treatment and expected status after treatment, if applicable,
10. Frequency and duration of treatment, if applicable,
11. Modalities, if applicable, and
12. For ulcers, the location, size and depth should be documented, if applicable.

(d) Retrospective Review: Medicaid's Surveillance and Utilization Review Program will review medical records retrospectively to determine the appropriateness of the service rendered. Medicaid may discontinue and/or recoup payment for the treatment or service if any of the following circumstances have occurred:

1. An EPSDT screening was not performed,
2. The condition/diagnosis noted on the EPSDT referral form does not relate to the treatment performed, and

3. The EPSDT screening form is not valid. (EPSDT screening referral forms are valid only for the time specified by the referring provider or up to a maximum of twelve (12) months).

(2) Qualifications For EPSDT-only Providers:

(a) Physical Therapists (PT) - A qualified PT must be licensed by the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy. Services provided must be ordered by a physician for an identified condition(s) noted during the EPSDT screening exam and provided by or under the supervision of a qualified physical therapist. Group physical therapy is covered only for codes specified as such in the Physical Therapy Billing Manual. Only procedure codes identified in the Medicaid Physical Therapy Billing Manual are reimbursable. Some codes may require attainment of prior authorization before services are rendered. Recreational and leisure type activities such as movies, bowling, skating, etc. are not covered by Medicaid.

1. Physical therapy may be provided by a PT assistant who practices under the direction of a licensed PT. Assistants may perform treatment procedures as delegated by the PT but may not initiate or alter a treatment plan. PT assistants must be licensed by the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy and must be an employee of the supervising PT in order for the PT to bill for services. The PT must oversee the assistants' activities on a frequent, regularly scheduled basis. Scheduled visits to supervise care provided by the assistant must be documented and signed by the PT at a minimum every 6th visit.

2. Physical therapy aides who are employed by the PT may perform only routine treatment procedures as allowed by State law and only under direct, on-site supervision of the licensed PT. Care rendered by a PT aide shall not be held out as and shall not be charged as physical therapy.

(b) Occupational Therapists (OT) - A qualified OT must be licensed by the Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy. Services provided must be ordered by a physician for an identified condition(s) noted during the EPSDT screening exam and provided by or under the direct supervision of a qualified occupational therapist. Group occupational therapy is covered only for codes specified as such in the Occupational Therapy Billing Manual. Services are limited to those procedures identified in the Occupational Therapy Billing Manual. Some codes may require attainment of prior authorization before services are rendered. Recreational and leisure type activities such as movies, bowling, skating, etc. are not covered by Medicaid.

1. OT assistants are allowed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy only under the supervision of an OT. OT assistants must have an Associate of Arts degree and must be licensed by the Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy. Supervision of certified OT assistants must consist of a minimum of one on one on-site supervision at least eight hours per month. Supervision for non certified limited permit holders shall consist of one to one, on-site supervision a minimum of 50% of direct patient time by an OT who holds a current license. Supervising visits must be documented and signed by the OT. The supervising OT must ensure that the assistant is assigned only duties and responsibilities for which the assistant has been specifically educated and which the assistant is qualified to perform.

2. OT aides employed by the OT are allowed to perform only

routine duties under the direct, on-site supervision of the OT. Care rendered by an OT aide shall not be held out as and shall not be charged as occupational therapy.

(c) Speech Therapists (ST-Speech Language Pathologist) - A qualified ST must have a Certification of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology or be eligible for certification and licensed by the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech, Language Pathology and Audiology. Services provided must be ordered by a physician for an identified condition(s) noted during the EPSDT Screening exam and provided by or under the supervision of a qualified speech therapist. Only procedures identified in the Medicaid Speech Therapy Billing Manual are reimbursable.

1. Speech Therapy Assistants must be employed by a Speech Therapist, have a bachelor degree in Speech Pathology and must be registered by the Alabama Board of Speech, Language Pathology and Audiology. Assistants are allowed to provide services commensurate with their education, training and experience only. They may not evaluate speech, language or hearing, interpret measurements of speech language or hearing, make recommendations regarding programming and hearing aid selection, counsel patients or sign test reports, nor other documentation regarding the practice of speech pathology. Assistants must work under the direct supervision of a licensed speech pathologist. Direct supervision requires the physical presence of the licensed speech pathologist in the same facility at all times when the assistant is performing assigned clinical responsibilities. The licensed speech pathologist must document direct observation of at least ten (10%) percent of all clinical services provided by the assistant. Speech therapists may supervise no more than the equivalent of two full-time assistants concurrently.

(d) Services provided under the direction of a health care practitioner provided to Medicaid eligible children by those working under the direction of licensed, enrolled Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists or Physical Therapists as provided for in this rule must be provided under the following conditions:

1. The person providing the service must meet the minimum qualifications established by State laws and the Agency regulations and be in the employment of the supervising provider;
2. The person providing the service must be identifiable in the case record;
3. The supervising therapist must assume full professional responsibility for services provided and bill for such services;
4. The supervising provider must assure that services are medically necessary and rendered in a medically appropriate manner, and

(e) Podiatrist - Must have a current license issued to practice podiatry, and operate within the scope of practice established by the appropriate state's Board of Podiatry.

(f) Chiropractor - Must have a current certification and/or be licensed to practice chiropractic, and operate within the scope of practice established by the state's Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

(g) Psychologist - Must have a doctoral degree from an accredited school or department of Psychology and have a current license to practice as a psychologist, and operate within the scope of practice as established by the appropriate state's Board of Psychology.

(h) Private Duty Nursing – The purpose of the Private Duty Nursing Program is to provide payment for quality, safe, cost-efficient skilled nursing care to Medicaid recipients who require a minimum of four consecutive hours of continuous skilled nursing care per day. Skilled nursing care is defined as prescribed care that can only be provided by a licensed Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) which is medically necessary to treat or ameliorate medical conditions identified as a result of an EPSDT screening. The medical criteria herein must be present when the specified condition listed below is found. For conditions not found in the Alabama Medicaid Administrative Code, medical necessity review will be conducted by the Medicaid Medical Director. Medicaid recipients who do not meet the medical necessity requirements for the Private Duty Nursing Program have access to a variety of nursing and related community services. The Agency will make referrals to the appropriate programs based on the level of care needed.

1. **Criteria – Non-ventilator Dependent Recipients.**

(i) High technology non-ventilator dependent recipients may qualify for private duty nursing services if they meet either of the following criteria and at least one qualified caregiver has been identified:

(I) Any one of the primary requisites are present.

(II) Two or more secondary requisites are present.

(ii) *Primary Requisites* – include, but may not be limited to, the following as qualifying criteria for nursing recipients:

(I) Tracheotomy – Coverage up to four months for acute (new) tracheotomy and up to an additional two months with documentation of continuing acute problems. Continuation of nursing services may be approved after initial certification for those periods of time when the primary caregiver is away from the home for work or school or otherwise unable to provide the necessary care.

(II) Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) – Coverage up to two months for acute phase with additional certification based upon the need for continuing therapy.

(III) Intravenous Therapy – Coverage up to two months for a single episode. The number of hours required for a single infusion must be at least four continuous hours and require monitoring and treatment by a skilled nurse. An additional period of certification may be approved based on medical necessity for continuing therapy. Additional hours may also be approved for secondary criteria requisites listed below in conjunction with the primary criteria requisites.

(iii) *Secondary Requisites* – include, but may not be limited to, the following as qualifying criteria for nursing recipients.

(I) Decubitus ulcers – Coverage for stage three or four ulcers.

(II) Colostomy or ileostomy care – Coverage for new or problematic cases.

(III) Suprapubic catheter care – Coverage for new or problematic cases.

(IV) Internal nasogastric or gastrostomy feedings

– Coverage for new or problematic cases.

(iv) *Qualified Caregiver.*

(I) The family must have at least one member capable of and willing to be trained to assist in the provision of care for the recipient in the home.

(II) The family must provide evidence of parental or family involvement and an appropriate home situation (for example, a physical environment and geographic location for the recipient's medical safety).

(III) Reasonable plans for emergencies (such as power and equipment backup for those with life-support devices) and transportation must be established.

2. **Ventilator Dependent Recipients.**

(i) *Ventilator dependent recipients* may qualify for private duty nursing services if any one of the primary requisites are present and at least one qualified caregiver has been identified.

(ii) *Primary Requisites* – include, but may not be limited to, the following as qualifying criteria for nursing recipients:

(I) Mechanical ventilator support is necessary for at least six hours per day and appropriate weaning steps are in progress on a continuing basis.

(II) Frequent ventilator checks are necessary. Frequent ventilator checks are defined as daytime versus nighttime setting changes, weaning in progress, or parameter checks a minimum of every eight hours with subsequent ventilator setting changes.

(III) Oxygen supplementation for ventilator dependent recipients is at or below an inspired fraction of 40 percent (FiO<sub>2</sub> of 0.40).

(iii) *Qualified Caregiver.*

(I) The family must have at least one member capable of and willing to be trained to assist in the provision of care for the recipient in the home.

(II) The family must provide evidence of parental or family involvement and an appropriate home situation (for example, a physical environment and geographic location for the recipient's medical safety).

(III) Reasonable plans for emergencies (such as power and equipment backup for those with life-support devices) and transportation must be established.

**Note:** Any private duty nursing hours approved will be reduced by the number of hours of care which are provided or are available from other resources. In the event a child eligible for Medicaid is already attending or plans to attend public school, the case manager should contact the Special Education Coordinator within the appropriate school district to request that the child's Individual Education Program (IEP) committee meet to determine the student's need for related services. The names and contact information for the coordinators are on the education website at [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu). The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) guarantees every child the right to a free, appropriate public education and related services in the least restrictive environment. The case

manager may be asked to be part of the client's IEP team to facilitate the coordination of necessary related services. Related services needed in the school that are the same as services provided in the home should be closely coordinated. For example, a child needing nursing services should be evaluated and recommended for the appropriate level of care to ensure no break in services if services previously provided by Medicaid are subsequently provided by the school district. For children attending public school, the number of approved hours may be modified during the summer months and school breaks.

**3. Limitations:**

(i) Nursing services must be prescribed as medically necessary by a licensed physician as a result of an EPSDT screening referral, based on the expectation that the recipient's medical needs are adequately and safely met in the home.

(ii) All private duty nursing services require prior authorization. Additionally, the recipient must be under 21 years of age to qualify and must be Medicaid eligible. The recipient must require skilled nursing care which exceeds the caregiver's ability to care for the recipient without the assistance of at least four consecutive hours of skilled nursing care.

(iii) Major commitment on the part of the recipient's family is mandatory to meet the recipient's needs. The primary caregiver must sign the Private Duty Nursing Agreement for Care form agreeing to participate in and complete training. Additional caregivers identified for training must be indicated on the Private Duty Nursing Agreement for Care form. In the event that multiple caregivers exist, an adjustment in the hours approved for PDN will occur.

(iv) Medicaid does not provide private duty nursing services under the following circumstances:

(I) Observational care for behavioral or eating disorders, or for medical conditions that do not require medically necessary intervention by skilled nursing personnel;

(II) Services not prescribed to treat or improve a condition identified as a result of an EPSDT screening;

(III) Custodial, sitter, and unskilled respite services;

(IV) Services after the recipient is admitted to a hospital or a nursing facility; or

(V) Services after the recipient is no longer eligible for Medicaid.

(v) Medicaid allows hours for the continuation of private duty nursing services under the following circumstances:

(I) Temporary Illness: Private duty nursing hours may be provided for a period up to 90 days if the primary caregiver is incapacitated due to personal illness or illness of another family member who is dependent upon the caregiver and there is no other trained caregiver available in the home. Temporary illness includes a required surgical procedure due to illness/disease, an illness which would be a danger to the child because of contagion, or an illness which is debilitating

for a limited period. Medical documentation from the caregiver's attending physician is required. The number of hours approved is dependent upon the specific circumstances.

(II) Patient at Risk: Private duty nursing hours may be approved if the patient appears to be at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation in the domestic setting and a referral for investigation has been made to the appropriate state agency. The number of hours approved is dependent upon the specific circumstances.

(III) Sleep: Private duty nursing hours may be provided up to eight hours depending on the situation of the primary caregiver. For example, a single parent with no other family support may be granted a full eight hours while two parents serving as primary caregivers may require fewer hours or only hours on an occasional basis.

(IV) Work: Private duty nursing hours provided will be up to the number of hours that the primary caregiver is at work plus one hour travel time. If additional travel time is needed beyond one hour, documentation must be provided to justify the increase. A Private Duty Nursing Verification of Employment/School Attendance Form must be completed providing documentation of work hours.

(V) School: Private duty nursing hours provided will be up to the number of hours that the primary caregiver is attending class plus one hour travel time. If additional travel time is needed beyond one hour, documentation must be provided to justify the increase. A current course selection guide published by the school, validated class schedule from school, curriculum guide and transcripts of previous courses taken must be provided. The coursework must be consistent with the requirement for obtaining a GED, college degree, or some other type of certification for employment. Courses selected must follow a logical approach with class hours being taken one after the other unless the course has been indicated by school officials as "closed".

4. A care plan must be developed and submitted with each request for service documenting the extent of nursing needs. Careful review of the patient's status and needs should be made by each professional participating in the patient's care. Each discipline should formulate goals and objectives for the patient and develop daily program components to meet these goals in the home. This plan must include the following:

- (i) designation of a home care service coordinator;
- (ii) involvement of a primary care physician with specific physician orders for medications, treatments, medical follow-up, and medical tests as appropriate;
- (iii) family access to a telephone;
- (iv) a plan for monitoring and adjusting the home care plan;
- (v) a defined backup system for medical emergencies;
- (vi) a plan to meet the educational needs of the patient;
- (vii) a clearly shown planned reduction of private duty hours; and
- (viii) criteria and procedures for transition from private duty nursing care, when appropriate.

5. At each certification, the care plan will be denied, approved, or additional information will be requested. The patient should be transitioned to the most appropriate care when the patient no longer meets the private duty nursing criteria. The most appropriate care may be home care services, nursing home placement, or the Home and Community Based Waiver Program.

6. Cost Effectiveness: The cost of private duty nursing services, when combined with the total daily cost of all Medicaid reimbursable services, should not exceed the cost of available hospital care for which the recipient would qualify if private duty nursing services were not provided.

7. Private duty nursing providers are required to indicate the date and time of all services provided on a signature log maintained in the patient's record with a copy retained by the patient/parent or guardian. The nurse providing services and the caregiver must sign each entry.

8. Private duty nursing providers are required to submit to Medicaid a copy of the Home Health Certification and Plan of Care form (HCFA-485), the Medical Update and Patient Information form (HCFA-486), the Private Duty Nursing Agreement for Care Form (Form 166), and the EPSDT Referral for Services form (Form 167) for Medicaid to consider authorization for services.

9. Private duty nursing providers are required to submit the Home Health Certification and Plan of Care form (HCFA-485) and the Medical Update and Patient Information form (HCFA-486) to Medicaid for continued services at least fourteen (14) days prior to the recertification due date. Recertification not received timely will be approved when criteria are met based on the date of receipt.

10. Failure by the provider to comply with agency rules and program policies contained in the applicable Private Duty Nursing Services Program Manual may result in recoupments and termination of the provider contract.

(i) Air Ambulance - Refer to Rule 560-X-18-. 15.

(j) Environmental Lead Investigators - a qualified investigator must have graduated from a four-year college or university with a minimum of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of combined course work in biology, chemistry, environmental science, mathematics, physical science, or a minimum of, or evidence of, five years or more of permanent employment in an environmental health field. Any person employed must have successfully completed the training program for environmentalist conducted by the Alabama Department of Public Health before being certified by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

1. Environmental Lead Investigations are billable as a unit of service. A unit of service is the investigation of the home or primary residence of an EPSDT eligible child who has an elevated blood lead level. Testing of substances which must be sent off-site for analysis, or any non-medical activities such as removal or abatement of lead sources, or relocation efforts are not billable as part of an Environmental Lead Investigation.

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**Statutory Authority:** State Plan, Attachment 3.1-A; 42 CFR Section 440.110, Section 441.56(2)(c); Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989.



**History:** Rule effective October 1, 1982, September 11, 1992, January 11, 1994, September 13, 1994, September 12, 1995, August 14, 1996, November 14, 1996, and May 10, 1999. Amended: Filed October 19, 2001; effective January 16, 2002.  
**Amended:** Filed February 18, 2005; effective May 26, 2005. **Amended:** Filed July 20, 2006; effective October 17, 2006.